

Mr. SOLOMON. I would say to my good friend that the gentleman knows that under former Presidents of the Democrat majority rule when we have had constitutional amendments come to the floor, we are following generally the same procedure, because it is so terribly complex. I would hope that we could entertain any legitimate substitute and have it made in order. However, there is going to be a constraint of time. Probably an ample number of amendments might be three or four on your side and possibly one on our side that may not be supported by the Republican leadership necessarily.

We want to be fair to everyone. We want to give everybody their fair shot. I would hope that that is the procedure we could arrive at.

We are going to be holding that hearing, incidentally, on Monday, January 23, that is a week from Monday, at 1 p.m. Again we hope that the membership will come up and we can discuss it and we would be glad to consult with the minority.

Mr. BONIOR. Does the gentleman intend to employ a procedure known as king-of-the-hill or queen-of-the-hill or do you plan on inventing a new procedure for us and surprising us?

Mr. SOLOMON. The gentleman knows that this gentleman has always been opposed to king-of-the-hill, where a substitute or an amendment could pass not having received the largest number of votes. That is not going to happen anymore. If we have any procedure at all, it will be the fair procedure of the substitute passing with the most votes wins. That is the way it should be on the floor of this House, and that is the way it should be in any committee.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague from New York and my friend from Texas.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1995

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

A VIEW ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Great Depression dealt the biggest economic blow this Nation has ever faced. The epidemic seemed never-ending, sweeping everything away in its path of economic destruction.

In the election of 1932, with the economy still contracting, Franklin Roosevelt complained of Hoover's deficit spending and raised the issue of the need to balance the Federal budget. However, by the end of the decade, the economy was improving under the direction of President Roosevelt and his New Deal policies, without calling for a constitutional amendment. Now, in 1995, we are visiting this issue again. As we dialog today, though, we must reflect on the lessons learned from yesterday.

As students of the economy, we know that if an economy is operating below its capacity to produce, the result is a cause for cyclical downturn. And if the Government needs to raise revenues or must spend less—requirements that will be unconditionally placed on this institution if the balanced budget amendment is passed—economic activity depresses further. Therefore, the efforts during the early 1930's to balance the budget might be theoretically counted as an economic contributor to prolonging the depression cycle.

This lesson rings as a reminder that there are situations which require economic responses other than constitutionally mandating that the Federal budget be balanced.

I urge my colleagues to further dialog on this issue.

BUDGET CUTS NEEDED FOR GAO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as the 104th Congress begins to examine areas to cut Federal spending, this Member would like to convey his strong support for reduced funding levels for the General Accounting Office [GAO], an investigative arm of the U.S. Congress.

Last year during consideration of the fiscal year 1995 legislative branch appropriations bill, this Member offered an amendment to cut funding for GAO by 5 percent below the fiscal year 1994 level. Unfortunately, this amendment failed by a close vote even though three committee chairmen vigorously worked against it on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, during a time when the American public has called for reduced Federal spending, the GAO has continued to undergo funding increases. Most recently, GAO received a funding level

of \$430.2 million in fiscal year 1994, and the House fiscal year 1994 legislative branch appropriations bill included a fiscal year 1995 funding level of \$439.5 million—an increase of \$9.4 million. The final fiscal year 1995 conference report for legislative branch appropriations included \$449 million for GAO, \$10 million more than the House-passed bill. This Member's amendment would have reduced the fiscal year 1995 funding level of GAO to \$408.7 million, a reduction of \$30.9 million from the committee-approved bill, and \$21.5 million below fiscal year 1994's funding level.

This Member strongly believes that GAO is an agency where growth is out of control. It is an agency which also has not been responsive to individual Members, especially those who serve in the minority. The quality of work produced by the GAO is increasingly shoddy. While the quality of the work varies dramatically, unfortunately and inappropriately, all GAO reports are given the same high respect and credibility simply because they are GAO products. The level of personnel and budgetary resources provided to GAO for its work now is excessive and has grown disproportionately when compared with other congressional support agencies. In addition, GAO resources are also used in certain questionable cases for consultants, training, and for various unnecessary expenses. Concern has also been expressed that GAO is more interested in getting headlines than in supporting the Congress with required information.

From 1985 to 1993, the number of GAO investigations doubled from 457 per year to 915. In addition, GAO's budget jumped from \$46.9 million in 1965 to our current spending level of \$449 million, a percentage increase of nearly 1,000 percent in unadjusted dollars.

In fiscal year 1994, the number of full-time equivalent positions at GAO were reduced from the fiscal year 1993 amount by approximately \$6 million and 100 positions. However, additional cuts are still needed to account for the past growth at this agency, which this Member will outline. In 1980, for example, funding for GAO staff cost \$204 million. By 1985 that had grown to \$299 million. In 1988 it was \$330 million, and in 1989, \$346 million. The average increase between 1980 and 1990 was 8 percent per year. Then, in 1991, GAO was increased by 14 percent, to a total of \$409 million. In 1992, GAO received another 8-percent increase to \$443 million.

The GAO is the largest support agency for Congress, and, incredibly, its budget represents more than one-quarter of the total fiscal year 1995 legislative branch appropriations. GAO's budget is 7½ times the size of the Congressional Research Service, 19 times the size of the Congressional Budget Office, and 20 times the size of the Office of Technology Assessment.

According to a Democratic Study Group [DSG] special report issued on